

Remarks

Claims 17-20 are under consideration, claim 12 having been canceled, and claims 1-11, 13-16 and 21-28 having been withdrawn. Claim 19 is amended to correct a typographical error. Claim 17 is amended to better define applicant's invention.

Claims 17 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Sugiyama et al. (5,815,631). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested. Sugiyama et al. fail to disclose each and every structural limitation of the claims.

Regarding claim 17, this claim, in part, calls for means to perform a verification that the signals or data are received, and to use the verification or an absence of the verification to determine if the video recorder or other media device is powered on. In contrast, Sugiyama et al. merely send a power-off command signal, and there is no verification that the power-off command signal is received. In Sugiyama et al., no response is awaited from the controlled device, as a necessary step before performing an action after the power-off command signal has been sent. Accordingly, in view of the present amendment, the rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is believed to have been fully overcome.

Regarding claim 20, this claim, in part, calls for periodically assessing the presence or content of signals and/or data output from the video recorder or other media device to determine if the device is operating, determining if the video recorder or other media device is scheduled and/or permitted to operate at the time of assessing the signals and/or data, and, if required, in response to the periodic assessing step and the determining step, issuing a command or code or sequence to disable the video recorder or

other media device by a power-off command and/or a stop command and/or a pause or other command.

In contrast, Sugiyama et al. merely send a power-off command signal, and there is no periodically assessing the presence or content of signals and/or data output, and no issuing, based upon the concurrence of two events or conditions, a command or code or sequence to disable the video recorder, let alone issuing a command or code or sequence to disable the video recorder or other media device in response to the step of periodically assessing the presence or content of signals and/or data output and the step of determining if the video recorder or other media device is scheduled and/or permitted to operate *at the time of assessing the signals and/or data*. At most, Sugiyama et al., while carrying out a single-event auto all-off function, request the controlled device to indicate if the image signal is present, locally.

This is not the same as applicant's claimed invention which calls for a periodic assessing of a controlled device or an action based upon the concurrence of the periodic assessing and a determining if the controlled device is scheduled or permitted to operate. The rejection of claim 17 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is therefore believed to have been fully overcome and reconsideration is requested.

Accordingly, the rejection of claims 17 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is believed to have been fully overcome.

Claim 18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. in view of Kim (6,351,595). This rejection is traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Kim fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sugiyama et al., pointed out above with respect to claim 17 from which claim 18 depends. Kim inserts a position identification code into every frame of a video signal. Kim monitors this inserted position code on a subsequent pass over the same portion of the tape, to switch from playback to a record mode to deal with tape positioning error when a new recording is initiated. Neither Sugiyama et al. nor Kim, taken either alone or in combination, await a response from a controlled device, as a necessary step before performing an action after a power-off command signal has been sent, as called for in applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to have been fully overcome.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Sugiyama et al. in view of Young (6,850,693). This rejection is also traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Young fails to overcome the deficiencies of Sugiyama et al., as pointed out above with respect to claim 17 from which claim 19 depends. The relevance of Young, as set out in the Office Action, is that "Young teaches a recorder having a control means for verifying the signals from the recorder apparatus correspond to the selected designated program for recording (FIG. 22, column 13)." In Figures 22A and 22B, a VCR 206 and a VCR tape mechanism 252 are shown, coupled to a CPU 228 and a schedule/tape controller 220, respectively. Column 13 (and the entirety) of Young fails to mention a "verifying". In column 13, the word "signal" appears in line 2 with reference to a TV signal from an antenna, and in line 12, with reference to the vertical blanking interval


signal being processed by CPU 228. No mention is made in column 13 of verifying signals from a recorder apparatus. However, in column 14, lines 1-7, the tape index location (i.e., the start address information of the VCR 206) is mentioned as being transmitted to the CPU 228. In column 14, lines 19-21, data recorded on the control track of the tape is described as being coupled to the CPU 228 over input bus 258 and output bus 256. No mention is made of verifying information from the tape device. In the first mentioned instance in column 14, the start address information is transmitted to the CPU, without mention of the sequence of events controlling such transmission. In the second mentioned instance in column 14, control track data is transmitted to the CPU, again without mention of the sequence of events controlling such transmission.

Neither Sugiyama et al. nor Young, taken either alone or in combination, await a response from a controlled device, as a necessary step before performing an action after a power-off command signal has been sent, as called for in applicant's claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejection of claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) is believed to have been fully overcome.

The accompanying discussion of the applied references is believed to distinguish the present claims from the applied references. Early passing of this application to issue is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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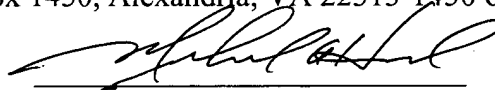
By: 

Michael A. Hierl
Reg. No. 29,807

OLSON & HIERL, LTD.
20 North Wacker Drive
36th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60606
(312) 580-1180

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Michael A. Hierl